

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 14, and 20 have been amended to recite that the apparatus management information includes "apparatus-specific maintenance information." The amendments are fully supported by the application as originally filed.

As amended, independent claims 1, 14, and 20 recite an electronic apparatus and method in which apparatus management information is provided to a portable terminal on demand, where the apparatus management information includes apparatus-specific maintenance information of the associated electronic apparatus.

For example, the electronic apparatus can transmit the following information to a portable terminal, in accordance with the identification information of the portable terminal: apparatus management information related to consumable goods, operating condition, periodic maintenance, and the like (see, e.g., FIG. 3; and specification at page 23, second paragraph).

Claims 1-26 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,950,148 to Nakagawa et al. ("Nakagawa") in view of U.S. Patent 6,871,243 to Iwase et al. ("Iwase"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The proposed combination of Nakagawa in view of Iwase does not teach or suggest an electronic apparatus and method in which apparatus management information is provided to a portable terminal on demand, where the apparatus management information includes apparatus-specific maintenance information of the associated electronic apparatus.

In particular, the host computer 40 in Nakagawa is not equivalent to the Applicants' claimed "electronic apparatus" at least because the host computer 40 is centrally located and connected to one or more remote copying machines, and does not provide apparatus-specific maintenance information of an associated electronic apparatus.

On page 2 of the Final Office Action, it was admitted that Nakagawa does not teach or suggest "if the apparatus management information includes apparatus-specific information of the associated electronic apparatus" (Final Office Action, page 2, last paragraph).

Iwase was cited allegedly to overcome the deficiencies of Nakagawa. In particular, column 20, lines 25-67 and column 21, line 55 to column 22, line 46 of Iwase were cited for disclosing "apparatus-specific information of the associated electronic apparatus."

However, the above-cited passages of Iwase refer to FIGS. 26-28 of Iwase, which are exemplary views of a guide screen 270, a user menu screen 280, and a setting screen 300, respectively, of a display section 93 of a **multi-function peripheral** (see also column 20, lines 15-22 of Iwase).

In other words, the views of FIGS. 26-28 are merely screens visible on the display section 93 of the multi-function peripheral (see column 20, lines 18-22: "FIG. 26 is a view showing a display example of a guide screen 270 on the display section 93 of the multi functional peripheral while the multi functional peripheral is acquiring user setting information from a server").

In Iwase, after a connection is established between a portable telephone and a multi-function peripheral (for example, the MFP 10 and portable telephone 11 shown in FIG. 1), then user information can be transmitted from the portable telephone to the multi-function peripheral (see column 20, lines 38-43). Also, image data can be transmitted from the multi-function peripheral to the portable telephone (see column 23, lines 50-54 and column 24, lines 58-67).

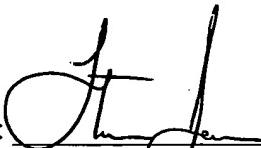
However, Iwase does not teach or suggest that "apparatus-specific maintenance information" is transmitted from the multi-function peripheral to the portable telephone. In particular, there is no teaching or suggestion of transmitting maintenance information to the portable telephone, such as trouble history, counter information, level information of consumable goods, or system information.

In contrast, in the Applicants' invention, the apparatus-specific maintenance information includes, for example, trouble history information, counter information, level information of consumable goods, and system information of the electronic apparatus, all of which relate to *apparatus management information for performing maintenance of the electronic apparatus.*

Even if Iwase were somehow combined with Nakagawa, the proposed combination would not teach or suggest an electronic apparatus and method in which apparatus-specific maintenance information is provided to a portable terminal on demand, for at least the reasons discussed above. Moreover, there is no teaching or suggestion in Nakagawa that the portable terminal device 30 is capable of receiving and displaying **image data** from copying machines 1 or the host computer 40, as required in Iwase. Therefore, the proposed combination of Nakagawa in view of Iwase would not produce the Applicants' claimed invention.

It is believed that the claims are in condition for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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